

FROM THE EDITOR

The blessed days of Hajj are a means of benefit not only for the chosen Hajis, they are also beneficial for others as well. We show you how this can be attained through Dua and its indelible link with the Hajj. Maximise the day of Arafah with the 10 points in another article in this issue. We have also included an easy pictorial Hajj guide to give us more appreciation of the journey.

Our regular feature designed to grow the appreciation of the Mathabs looks at the differences in Hajj and Umrah between the Shafi and Hanafi Mathab. Part three of the powerful series on Duas that changed the world takes us through the Dua of Prophet Yunus alaihis salaam. This is a Dua that helps us through worry, problems and distress.

Qurbani is another act of worship located within the days of Hajj

and our article gives guidelines on the humane treatment of animals. This will ensure that we gain the complete reward for our sacrifice.

A good night's sleep is something that people increasingly battle to achieve. Take a look at our article on sleep management that highlights methods from the Sunnah to help us get our precious rest.

The world is on an increasingly desperate search for a happier life. Explore the ways to achieve true happiness in our article in this issue. We also have something for our youth: lessons from Surah Kahf to help deal with life's challenges.

We look forward to hearing your inspirational story. Please email me on: info@islamicfocus.co.za.

Muhammad Badsha (Moulana)

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to be derived from intentional activity, from actions that

be drawn from Montier's research is that we can only work on the last 40% to make ourselves happier. It must be noted that this 40% cannot be achieved in pursuit of money, fame or anything happiness is contentment, and this is only attained through activities which are

Here are five steps to make our lives happier:

Being content with

As humans we have no control over our genetic setpoint, and hardly any control over our circumstances. This 50% of happiness in Islam is called 'ridha bi al-qadha' (being content with our lot in life). This means that as believers if we truly love Allah the necessary effect of it would be that we are content

The Prophet would supplicate with words that would highlight the importance of satisfaction with our fate: "O Allah, make me content with what you have provided me, send blessings for me therein, and replace for me every absent thing with something better." (Bukhari)

He also sought refuge from a self which is not content. (Muslim)

In dealing and coping with loss in life, the Sahaba showed unparalleled excellence. This was due to, among other things, making peace with the decree of Allah in every situation. Once we are resigned to the decree of Allah and make peace with the situation, we will be free from crippling grief and depression.

Satisfy your soul and not your body

The 40% of an individual's happiness stem from actions that we choose to do. Work on activities that result in eternal happiness, that bring a smile to the heart and not merely a smile to the face. Do meaningful work; take part in activities that help the less fortunate.

"True enrichment does not come through possessing a lot of wealth, but true enrichment is the enrichment of the soul." (Bukhari)

Bob Holmes, in an article which appeared in the Reader's Digest of October 2004, states that money can buy a degree of happiness. But once you can afford to feed, clothe and house yourself, each extra rand makes less and less difference.

In the past half-century, he wrote, average income has skyrocketed in industrialized countries, yet happiness levels have remained static. Once your basic needs are met, money rarely seems to boost happiness.

There is a way in which money can buy happiness, though. Once

a person spends money in helping others, this charity has positive effects on his own happiness:

There is a Chinese saying that goes: "If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody." For centuries, philosophers have suggested the same thing: Happiness is found in helping others.

In a study on charitable giving using fMRI technology, when people donated to a worthy cause, the midbrain region of the brain lit up. This is the area of the brain that is responsible for our cravings and pleasure rewards, showing the link between charitable giving and pleasure.

People who give money to charity tend to be happier and also healthier than others, said Elizabeth Dunn, a psychology professor at the University of British Columbia in Canada.

"All created beings are the dependents of Allah, and the most beloved of creation to Allah is the one who is good to His dependents." (Bayhaqi)

Faith in Allah Ta'ala

Nothing can make us happier than seeking the pleasure of Allah. Of the dozens of studies that have looked at religion and happiness, the vast majority have found a positive link. Chelsea Ritschel details in an article that "countless research has shown that as a group, religious people are happier than people who don't rely on their faith."

A study by the Pew Research Centre found that religiously active people, people who acknowledge God, are typically happier than adults who either do not practise a religion or do not actively participate in one. Allah Ta'ala outlines the link between faith, good deeds and a good life: "Whoever, male or female, does good work, while being a believer, We shall certainly make him live a good life, and shall give such people their reward for the best of what they used to do." (Quran 16:97)

Do not look towards celebrities, rich or affluent people above you in worldly matters. "Look at those below you (less fortunate than you), and don't look at those above you, for this is better." (Muslim)

How much stuff do you need to feel good? In the 1980s, political scientist Alex Michalos, professor emeritus at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George, asked 18,000 college students in 39 countries to rate their happiness on a numeric scale. Then he asked them how close they were to having all they wanted. He found that the people whose aspirations soared furthest beyond what they already had, tended to be less happy than those who perceived a smaller gap.

This "aspiration gap" might explain why most people fail to get much happier as their salaries rise. Instead of satisfying our desires, most of us merely want more. In surveys by the Roper polling organization over the last two decades, Americans were asked to list the material possessions they thought important to "the good life." The researchers found that the more of these goods people already had, the longer their list was. The good life remained always just out of reach.

The Prophet said, "If the son of Adam had a valley full of gold, he would want to have two valleys. Nothing fills his mouth but the dust of the grave, yet Allah will relent to whoever repents to him." (Bukhari 6075)

Hajj & Dua

The annual pilgrimage (Hajj) to Makkah Mukarramah is one of the most spiritual events in a Muslim's life. It continues to evoke special feelings and emotions years after its performance. One of the indelible links to Hajj is the aspect of Dua. At every turn and at every ritual the emphasis is on Dua, on calling out to Allah Ta'ala. Here is how Dua enriches one's Hajj as well as the lives of others around:

1. Asking the Haji for Dua

Umar bin Al-Khatt reported, I asked the Prophet for permission to perform Umrah. He granted me permission and said, "Do not forget us, my brother, in your dua." Umar added, "He said something which was more pleasing to me than owning the world."

According to another report he said, "Let us share in your dua, my brother." (Abu Dawud and Tirmidhi)

It is good to request a person going on Hajj or Umrah to make dua for you.

2. Dua for the Intending Haji

Ibn Umar an arrates that once a youngster came to Nabi and said, "I intend performing Hajj this year."
Nabi then walked with him and made the following Duafor him:

زُوَّدَكَ اللهُ التَّقْوَى ، وَوَجَّهَكَ الْخَيْرَ ، وَكَفَاكَ الْهَمَّ

May Allah Ta'ala make Taqwa your provision, direct you towards goodness and may He be sufficient for you in distress. (Tabrani)

3. Dua of the Haji for others

- a. Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn
 Umar reports that Nabi said: "When you meet a Haji
 then greet him, shake hands
 with him and ask him to seek
 forgiveness on your behalf
 before he enters his home,
 for verily he is forgiven."
 (Musnad Ahmad, vol. 2 pg.
 69 with a weak chain. Refer:
 Majma'uz Zawaid, vol. 4 pg.
 16)
- b. Sayyiduna Abu Hurayrah & reports that Nabi # said:
- "O Allah, forgive the sins of the Haji and forgive the sins of the one for whom the Haji seeks forgiveness." (Mustadrak Hakim, vol. 1 pg. 441, Sahih ibn Khuzaymah, Hadith: 2516, Shu'abul Iman, Hadith: 3817)
- c. Sayyiduna Umar 🗟 says:

"The Haji will be forgiven, and all those whom the Haji seeks forgiveness on behalf of, for the remainder of Dhul Hijjah, Muharram, Safar until the tenth of Rabiul Awwal." (Musannaf ibn Abi Shaybah, Hadith: 12800 with a weak

chain. Refer; footnotes of Musannaf ibn Abi Shaybah. Also see Al Ajwibatul Mardiyyah, vol. 1 pg. 61)

The last narration mentions that the Haji's dua for forgiveness is accepted till the 10th of Rabiul Awwal, which is approximately 90 days from the day of Arafah.

4. Dua at Arafat

On the special day of Hajj, the Haji reads Zuhr and Asr in Zuhr time, and Maghrib and Esha in Esha time, giving himself time for the one act of Arafat which is standing in Dua.

Nabi sis reported to have said that, "The best of Duas is the Dua on the day of Arafat." (Tirmidhi, 3585)

5. Dua for the Returning Haji

The youngster mentioned under point 2 returned from Hajj and greeted Nabi Mabi Replied:

قَبِلَ اللهُ حَجَّكَ وَغَفَرَ ذَنْبَكَ وَأَخْلَفَ نَفَقَتَكَ

May Allah Ta'ala accept your Hajj, forgive your sins, and compensate you for your expenses. (Tabrani)

The Haji not only benefits himself but is a source of blessing and forgiveness for those around him as well.





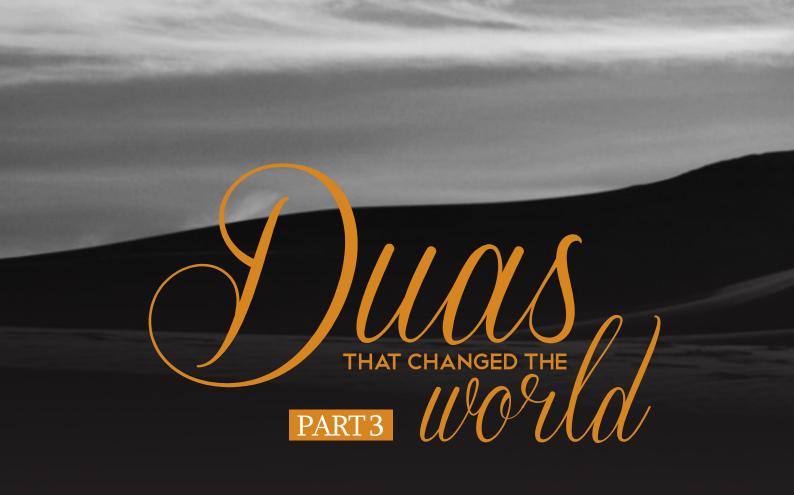
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A dua made by the average person can quite literally change destiny. The Prophet said, "Nothing can change qadr (destiny) except dua." [Tirmidhi] But what happens when a Prophet makes a dua? The ripple effects are grand enough to change the course of history forever!

Here are is part three of some Duas that the Prophets made. These duas were loved by Allah so much that He immortalized them in the Quran. There must be something superbly special about them.

Dua Three: Prophet Yunus (Dhun-Noon)

"And [mention] the man of the fish (Dhun-Noon], when he went off in anger and thought that We would not call him to responsibility." (Quran 21:87)

Fast forward to the moment Yunus was thrown into the violent seas on a dark, stormy night. Imagine the terror as the waves crashed upon one

another pulling him down into the dark depths of the ocean. Enveloped in the darkness of the ocean and the night, Yunus is swallowed by a massive whale.

Take a moment to imagine your state of mind in such a scenario. Imagine being many miles under the surface of the ocean, the wetness, the stench in the belly of the whale, the claustrophobia, the salt water and acidity of the stomach.

Allah Ta'ala says,

Laa ilaaha illa anta Subhaanaka inni kuntu minadh-dhalimeen

And he called out within the darknesses, "There is no deity except You (Oh Allah); exalted are You. Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers." [Quran 21:87]

This is the Dua that every one of us should memorise; we should be saying over and over again. This is the Dua of Yunus

This Dua is used at any type of problem, worry or distress. The multitudes of darkness that Yunus was enveloped in was far greater than any of our stresses: financial, family or marital. Yet, Allah Ta'ala pulled him out in the blink of an eye.

This Dua is so perfect because it is comprised of these three sentences:

- 1. Laa ilaaha illa anta
- 2. Subhaanaka
- 3. inni kuntu minadhdhalimeen

The first two sentences are praising Allah (two thirds of the Dua). The last part is recognition of one's own deficiencies when it comes to Allah Ta'ala.

The blessings of 'Laa ilaaha il-



Allah' are simply too numerous to mention. Our Prophet said that this is the best kalimah (phrase) that anyone can ever say. It is the one phrase that is weightier than all sins on the Day of Judgement. It is the one phrase that because of it, Allah has created the heavens and the earth, and Allah has revealed the books, sent the prophets, divided mankind into Muslim and non-Muslim. All of this is based on 'Laa ilaaha il-Allah'.

In this particular Dua, you are saying 'Laa ilaaha illa anta', i.e. there is no deity worthy of worship except you. You are practically communicating with Allah Ta'ala directly. And by doing so, you are directly affirming His Names and Attributes, His Majesty and Nobility.

While the first part of the Dua affirms Allah Ta'ala's perfection, the second part, subhaanaka, negates any perceived imperfections. In this phrase, Yunus takes all blame for the mistake and that evil was never subscribed to Allah. Recall the contrast between this and what Satan had said in accusing Allah Ta'ala of misguiding him.

Satan said: "Because You have put me in error, I will surely sit in

wait for them on Your straight path." [Quran 7:16]

After negating any perceived imperfection to Allah, Yunus ascribed it to himself in the third phrase, inni kuntu minadhdhalimeen. Yunus wowned up to his mistake.

Imagine dear reader, here is a Prophet of Allah Ta'ala saying, "I was a dhaalim (wrongdoer)". If a Prophet uttered these words, then by Allah we are all in need of saying these words. If Yunus admits to falling short, then what about us?

We have fallen short in worshipping Allah Ta'ala, in thanking Allah Ta'ala, in abstaining from the haraam (prohibitions), in the rights of others, in being good parents, in being honest and kind, and the list goes on. Every one of us is a wrongdoer, so we should admit to Allah Ta'ala in these beautiful phrases uttered by Yunus . We must eliminate arrogance and admit to being the sinful servant of Allah, for the worst sin in the Eyes of Allah is arrogance.

Once again, as was with the previous Dua, Yunus did not specify how to be saved. In fact, he did not ask to be saved, he simply praised Allah Ta'ala and owned up to his mistake.

So We responded to him and saved him from the distress. And thus do We save the believers. [Quran 21:88]

This is one of the most optimistic verses in the whole Quran: This Dua saves us from our distresses, any darkness or cloud in our life. Any issue that is troubling you, any anxiety or grief, this Dua will save you.

Realise that the combination of tawheed (faith in the Oneness of Allah) and istighfaar (seeking forgiveness) is a common motif of the Noble Quran.

Allah Ta'ala says in the Noble Quran: "Know that there is none worthy of worship but Allah (La ilaaha il-Allah). And seek forgiveness for your own sin." (Quran 47:19)

It is reported in Musnad Abu Ya'la (one of the books of hadith) that Satan said, "I destroy the people with their sins but they have destroyed me with 'Laa ilaaha il-Allah' and istighfaar." So attack back with the kalimah and istighfaar.

The Prophet said, "No Muslim ever says the Dua of Dhun-Nun (Yunus) except that Allah Ta'ala will respond to him."
[Musnad Imam Ahmed]

Outbank GUIDELINES

Qurbani (Udhiyya) is a time when Muslims the world over commemorate the ultimate sacrifice of Prophet Ebrahim and Ismail . To maximise one's reward, the Qurbani needs to be carried out in a manner that spares the sacrificial animal unnecessary suffering as far as possible.

The Animals Protection Act (No.71 of 1962) of South Africa lists certain requirements that should be adhered to when slaughtering an animal. In reality many of the provisions merely serve to reinforce Islamic guidelines in this regard.

1 Sharpen your knife
Knives used for the slaughter
must remain extremely sharp so
that the slaughtering remains as
humane as possible. Swiftly cut
the windpipe, the gullet and the
two jugular vein. Do not sever the
entire head.

The Prophet said, "Allah has ordained kindness (or excellence) in everything. If killing is to be done, do it in the best manner by first sharpening the knife and putting the animal at ease."

A man threw a goat on its side to slaughter it and then started sharpening his knife. When the Prophet saw him he said: "Do you want to kill it twice? Why did you not sharpen the knife before throwing it on the ground?" (Al-Haakim)

Ensure that the correct size knife is used to slaughter the animal swiftly.

2 Show mercy
Feed the animal, give the animal water and sooth the animal, show kindness and mercy

to it.

The Prophet said, "Anyone who shows mercy, even to an animal meant for slaughtering, Allah will have mercy on him on the Day of Rising." (Adab Al-Mufrad)

Humane treatment
Lead the animal to its slaughter
humanely. Do not abuse or
torture the animals. Do not
perform the slaughter process in
front of other live animals. No
animal should be picked up by
its fleece, dragged, hit, chased or
prodded.

Once Umar & saw a man dragging a sheep by its leg to be slaughtered, he said: 'Woe to you! Lead it to its death in a decent manner.'

OTHER GUIDELINES

- 1. Ensure the area of slaughter is clean and clear of live animals.
- 2. Make provision for blood drainage, fly control and general cleanliness.
- 3. Maintain strict hygiene standards.
- 4. All animals must be confined in such a manner that allows them adequate space, ventilation, shelter, food and water.
- 5. Animals should be restrained humanely while being transported and when being

slaughtered.

- 6. When due to be slaughtered, animals should be laid on their sides and not on their backs to avoid distress. It is preferable to make the throat of the animal face the Qibla.
- 7. Only experienced people should perform the slaughtering. Inexperienced, lay persons who attempt to perform the slaughters often cause trauma and pain to the animal.

REMEMBER

- 1. Make your intention.
- 2. Recite the name of Allah Ta'ala (Tasmiyah) while slaughtering the animal.

HEALTH GUIDELINES

- » Allow the dead animal to bleed completely.
- » Skin the animal as soon as possible after it has stopped kicking to avoid possible contamination.
- » Keep meat and offal separate; clean and refrigerate as soon as possible.
- » Remove and clean the intestine and offal.
- » Don't wrap offal in plastic (or other material) and bury.
- » Carefully remove and dispose of bile and gall bladder.
- » Cover the blood pit with sand and wash away all blood.

IslamicFocus July 2019

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PERITON OURBANI 2019/144

"The person performing Qurbani will be rewarded for every hair on the body of the animal or for every fibre of wool in the case of a sheep"

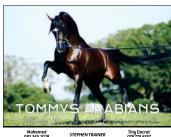
"Niether their flesh reaches Allah nor their blood but it is your piety that reaches him" Quran 23:37

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NSIGHT INTO FIO

Differences between the Shafi and Hanafi Mathab in Hajj & Umrah

South Africa has a healthy fusion between followers of the Shafi and Hanafi Figh. Many a home will have a mix of members following the two schools of thought within Islamic jurisprudence.

In view of this, we bring you a simplified version of selected differences between the Shafi and Hanafi Mathabs with regards to Hajj and Umrah. This is only intended as a guide and detailed answers should be sought from the respective Ulama.

Obligation

Shafi: Both Hajj and Umrah are obligatory once in a lifetime for the one who fulfils the criteria.

Hanafi: Hajj is obligatory once in a lifetime for the one who fulfils the criteria. Umrah is Sunnah

Hajj on behalf of someone else Shafi: One cannot perform a Hajj on behalf of someone else if one has not performed his own Hajj as yet.

Hanafi: One can perform a Hajj on behalf of someone else if one has not performed his own Hajj as yet, although this is not desirable.

Sa'ee between Safa and Marwa Shafi: Sa'ee between Safa and Marwa is a Fardh of Haji. Hanafi: Sa'ee between Safa and Marwa is a Wajib of Hajj.

Shaving or trimming of hair Shafi: Shaving or trimming of the hair is a Fardh of Hajj.

Hanafi: Shaving or trimming of the hair is a Wajib of Hajj.

Spending the night in Muzdalifa

Shafi: Spending some part of the second half of the night in Muzdalifa is Wajib. Hanafi: Spending the night in Muzdalifa is Sunnah Muakkadah.

Wuqoof in Muzdalifa Shafi: After midnight one can depart to Mina.

Hanafi: Wuqoof for even a few minutes at Muzadalifa is Wajib. The time for the Wugoof starts at Fair and ends at sunrise.

Spending the nights in Mina Shafi: Spending the nights after Eid (11 and 12 Zul Hijjah) is Wajib. Hanafi: Spending the nights after Eid (11 and 12 Zul Hijjah) is Sunnah Muakkadah.

Mina on the 13 Zul Hijjah Shafi: If one is in Mina at the time of sunset on the 12 Zul Hijjah, then one has to spend the night (13 Zul Hijjah) in Mina and pelt the Jamarat the next

Hanafi: It is permissible to leave Mina after sunset on the 12 Zul Hijjah but undesirable. If one is in Mina at the time of Fajr then pelting on the 13 Zul Hijjah becomes compulsory.

Two Rakaats Salaah after

Shafi: The two Rakaats Salaah after Tawaaf is Sunnah.

Hanafi: The two Rakaats Salaah after Tawaaf is Wajib.

These rules are collected from the mainstream a Mathab different from their own, or for views of the Muftis of the two Mathabs. They are listed to give an appreciation of the differences and to remove any misconceptions.

They can also serve as a handy guide for teachers who need to teach students of

Imams whose congregations are different from their own.

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SI CE COLOMANA GEMENT

Healthy sleep habits can make a big difference in your quality of life. Here are some ways to manage your sleep in the Sunnah way:

1. WIND DOWN

Your body needs time to shift into sleep mode, so spend the last hour before bed doing a calming activity such as reading. For some people, using an electronic device such as a laptop can make it hard to fall asleep, because the particular type of light emanating from the screens of these devices is activating to the brain. If you have trouble sleeping, avoid electronics before bed or in the middle of the night.

According to research, around 90% of people in the developed countries are hooked to screens - on computers, TVs, phones, iPads – till the last hour before they sleep. Using electronic devices before bedtime can be physiologically and psychologically stimulating in ways that can adversely affect your sleep. Besides increasing your alertness at a time when you should be getting sleepy, which in turn delays your bedtime, using these devices before turning in delays the onset of REM sleep, reduces

amount of REM sleep, and compromises alertness the next morning. Over time, these effects can add up to a significant, chronic deficiency in sleep.

Psychologists recommend that we should stop any stimulating discussions or activities half an hour or an hour before bed. This is something that we were taught already by the Prophet ::

Abu Barza & says that the Prophet did not like sleeping before praying Esha nor talking after it. (Muslim Book 5, Hadith 299)

Scholars consider it Makrooh (disliked) to talk after Esha salaah unless it is for a reason, or speaking about some good topic.

2. SLEEP ROUTINE

Developing certain sleep rituals or sleep-promoting bedtime routines can be very beneficial for good sleep. Do the same things in the same order before going to bed every day to give a cue to your body to slow down and relax.

Some of the routines of the Prophet that he practiced before going to bed, include Wudhu before going to sleep, Zikr (remembrance of Allah Ta'ala), starting the sleep in a certain posture and so on.

The Prophet instructed that whenever one goes to bed perform Wudhu like that for Salaah, lie or your right side

and detailed Duas to be recited. (Bukhari 247)

A relaxing, routine activity right before bedtime helps separate your sleep time from activities that can cause excitement, stress or anxiety which can make it more difficult to fall asleep, get sound and deep sleep or remain asleep.

3. FREE YOUR HEART AND MIND

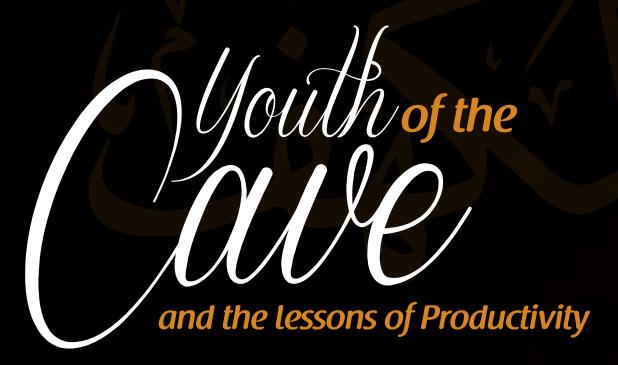
Anas ibn Malik reported: The Messenger of Allah said to me, "Young man, if you are able every morning and evening to remove any hostility from your heart towards anyone, then do so." (Tirmidhi 2678)

Harboring hatred eats away at a person's peace of mind. These thoughts can play havoc with one's inner serenity and lead to uneasy sleep or difficulty in falling asleep.

4. DUA FOR INSOMNIA

The Prophet # taught Khalid to recite the following Dua when he complained about experiencing difficulty in getting to sleep: (Tirmidhi, Hadith 3469)

اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّ السَّمَوَاتِ السَّبْعِ وَمَا أَظَلَّتْ ، وَرَبَّ الشَّيَاطِينِ وَرَبَّ الشَّيَاطِينِ وَمَا أَقَلَّتْ ، وَرَبَّ الشَّيَاطِينِ وَمَا أَقَلَّتْ ، وَرَبَّ الشَّيَاطِينِ وَمَا أَضَلَّتْ ، كُنْ لِي جَارًا مِنْ شَرِّ خَلْقِكَ كُلِّهِمْ جَمِيعًا أَنْ يَفْرُطَ عَلَيَّ أَحَدٌ مِنْهُمْ أَوْ أَنْ يَبْغِي ، عَزَّ جَارُكَ وَجَلَّ تَنَاؤُكَ وَلَا إِلَهَ غَيْرُكَ يَبْغِي ، عَزَّ جَارُكَ وَجَلَّ تَنَاؤُكَ وَلَا إِلَهَ غَيْرُكَ وَلَا إِلَهَ غَيْرُكَ وَلَا إِلَهَ غَيْرُكَ وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ



Yeah, right. A story about 'sleeping' for hundreds of years teaches Muslims about productivity?!

Well, let's recap the events together, shall we? A number of young men are guided to believe in the One and Only Lord and because they lived in a city of disbelievers they decide to escape to the cave, fearing execution after calling people to monotheism. Allah Ta'ala makes the boys fall asleep for 309 years (300 solar and 309 lunar years), and then they wake up to a new society filled with faith. It's a miracle and it's amazing but hey, as far as the story goes, that is it! We learn so many lessons from it but 'productivity' isn't one of them, since the boys were actually sleeping! Isn't that what some people would think?

Actually, there is more to this story than that, and that's what we'll explore in this article.

LESSON ONE: PRODUCTIVITY IS USING YOUR TIME WISELY

Roughly explained, productivity is the ability to efficiently yield positive and useful results in an allotted amount of time. We tend to relate this aptitude to grownups. We don't really expect the younger generation to naturally be productive, unless we actually

pin them down to the floor and make them do something useful with their time. We have this connotation in our heads that teenagers are up to no good. That's the age where they go wild and get together to 'live it up' before real responsibilities kick in, and even though we parents try to restrain them, somehow deep inside we think that it's okay to cut them some slack. I mean, they're teenagers, their hormones are literally holding their brains hostages!

The sleepers of the cave were also youngsters, and Allah specified that explicitly in the Holy Qur'an. They lived in a city with no rules and there's no mention of any strict parents with unwavering curfews, is there? Imagine what boys their age would get together to do? They didn't live in a fairytale; they lived in a real corrupt

environment abound with fitna, from inadequately dressed women to parties and alcohol. But instead they chose to get together in the remembrance of Allah Ta'ala. They used their time wisely, learning their religion and planning on how to spread the true word of Allah Ta'ala. Now that's a bunch of truly productive youngsters!

LESSON TWO: HAVE A SOLID OBJECTIVE

The boys were an integral part of the community up until their lives were in danger. They never fled the scene just because they were different. They invested in themselves and had a clear-cut mission of reviving their immoral society. It makes me wonder about the stories we hear today: girls taking off their hijab because they couldn't 'fit in', and boys drinking alcohol and smoking because otherwise they won't be 'cool'!

The wannabes of today have no mission and no goals and that's not Islam. We are a unique ummah because we have an obligation to benefit ourselves and others, and we have an 'end' in mind, which is Jannah, Insha Allah. Yes, we want to

for a game of PlayStation?

Unless your life is on the line, it's not over! The boys tried delivering their message until they ran out of options, but did they stop there? Did they eventually conclude: "Hey, let's go to the cave and nap for 309 years!" No, they chose the discomfort of living in a scary secluded cave, and as far as they were concerned, it was a temporary pause before coming up with a new plan. When they woke up, thinking they slept for a day or so, they said:

"Indeed, if they come to know of you, they will stone you or return you to their religion. And never would you succeed, then – ever." [Qur'an: Chapter 18, Verse 20]

You bet they were still on their mission to 'succeed'! The threat of death didn't deter them. These young men were smart! They decided to proceed with caution, so as not to blow their covers. Having faith in Allah

3 or 5 or 7, and guess what? He never gives an answer because it doesn't matter. That's not the point of the story! You want to be productive?

"Indeed, if they come to know of you, they will stone you or return you to their religion. And never would you succeed, then

— ever." [Qur'an: Chapter 18, Verse 20]

be successful and wealthy and popular, but we don't stop there like others do.

Stand up and remember who you are! A true Muslim is a leader, someone who can make a change in this world and isn't selfish or scared or embarrassed of his or her identity. There's no time for free time, people! If these youngsters could do it, so can we! Get up, start working, learning and teaching and always keep your eyes on the ultimate goal: pleasing Allah Ta'ala.

LESSON THREE: DEAD ENDS DON'T EXIST!

We tried, it didn't work, no one is listening so that's it. Who is up

and a goal of pleasing Him are the first steps, but an essential part of being productive is to calculate the risks and never quit.

LESSON FOUR: FOCUS YOUR VISION TO HIT THE TARGET

So were the boys wearing shoes or sandals? What was their dog's name? How many were they exactly?

How will these questions help you reach your goal more efficiently? Focus on what's important and don't distract yourself with minute details that Allah Ta'ala did not mention! Instead, He dedicated a whole verse to people's speculations about the real number of the sleepers, whether they were Stop 'guessing the unknown', for it will be like trying to hit a target when you can't even see it. Distractions will only blind you from hitting the real target, and in this story, that's learning how to guard your faith against all odds.

Allah Ta'ala honored the sleepers by mentioning them in the Qur'an and for us to be reminded every Friday of how they guarded their faith. Prophet Muhammad sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said this chapter protects us from the ultimate trial of the Dajjal. He will come with four challenges; one of them is testing our faith.

Source: Productive Muslim

Motivational stories to give us the inspiration we might need



A farmer was preparing his land for planting crops. As he dug through the soil his spade kept getting stuck.

Out of curiosity he dug the ground and discovered a big box. He quickly opened the box to see what was in it but to his disappointment there were only black stones inside.

He decided to throw these stones at the birds when they come to eat the crops at the time for harvesting. One day a man was walking by the field. Two stones happened to fall right in front of him when the farmer threw them at the birds.

The man brought the stones to the farmer and asked if he was willing to sell them to him for \$5,000 each. The farmer thought that the man was joking so he refused.

The man explained that they were precious jewels. The farmer started crying saying that he had only 1 or 2 stones left and the rest were thrown away.

These stones are the valuable seconds of our life. We are just throwing them away here and there, wasting them. But on the Day of Judgement, we will realize how valuable they were but it will be too late. Now is the chance to use our time properly.

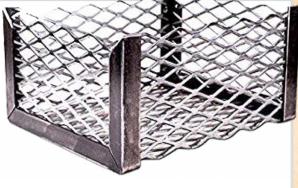
The Coal Basket

An old man lived on a farm with his young grandson. Each morning grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading his Quran. His grandson tried to imitate him. One day the grandson said: 'I try to read the Quran like you, Grandpa, but I don't understand it. And whatever I understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Quran do?'

Grandpa replied: 'Take this coal basket to the river and bring me back a basket of water.' The boy did as he was told, but all the water leaked out before he got back to the house. Grandpa laughed and said that he'd have

to be faster next time, and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again. This time the boy ran faster but then basket was empty by the time he got back. He told his grandfather that it was impossible to carry water in a basket and said that he'd take a bucket rather. The old man said: 'I don't want a bucket of water, I want a basket. You're not trying hard enough.'

The boy knew it was impossible but to prove it he ran again. Back he came with an empty basket. 'See Grandpa, it's impossible,' he said. 'You think it's useless?' asked Grandpa,



'Look at the basket.' The boy looked at the basket and realized it was different: It had been transformed from a dirty coal basket and was now clean inside and out.

This is what happens when we read the Noble Quran: we might not understand or remember everything, but when we read it, we will be changed and cleansed inside and out.

POINTS ABOUT THE

The day of Arafah is the most important day for a Haji. Whilst only a select few are chosen by Allah Ta'ala to physically be on the plains of Arafah on the 9th of Zul Hijjah, there are virtues and deeds mentioned regarding the day of Arafah which apply to those who are not there as well.

One of the best days of the vear

Sayyiduna Anas 💩 says, "The day of Arafah equals 10 000 days in virtue!" (At-Targheeb, vol. 2 pg.200)

2 Freedom from Hell "On the day of Arafah, Allah frees even those who are not physically in Arafah. Therefore the next day is Eid for all." (Ibn Rajab in Lataiful Ma'arif, pg.482)

"There is no day in which Allah sets free more souls from the fire of hell than on the day of Arafah." (Muslim)

Forgiveness
Ibn Al-Mubarak & said, "I went to Sufyan Al-Thawri on the night of Arafah while he was kneeling on his knees and weeping bitterly. I asked him, "Who is the worst person in this gathering?" He replied, "Whoever thinks that Allah will not forgive him."

Day of Eid

The Day of Arafah has also been labelled as 'Yawmul Eid' (the day of Eid) by Sayyiduna Umar as it is the day in which Allah Ta'ala announced the perfection of Islam. (Sahih Bukhari)



Adove: Hujjaaj suplicating to Allah on Jabal Rahman on the day of Arafah

Con this Day, Don't:

a. Persist on sin (i.e. repent from all sins)

b. Be arrogant

These two types of people are deprived on this blessed day. (Lataiful Ma'arif, pg.494)

"Zikr and Dua

ONabi ﷺ is reported to have said that, "The best of Duas is the Dua on the day of Arafat. And the best which I and the Prophets before me have said is: Lailaha illallahu wahdahu lasharika lahu lahul mulku walahul hamdu biyadihil khayru wahuwa 'ala kuli shayin qadir. (Tirmidhi, 3585)

Rasulullah # would recite this abundantly on the day of Arafah. (Musnad Ahmad; see Majma'uz Zawaid, vol.3 pg.252)

Sayyiduna Ali 🗟 dua on the Day of Arafah

Allahumma a'tiq raqabati minanar wa awsi'li minar rizgil halal, wasrif 'anni fasaqatil jinni wal ins

Translation: O Allah! Free me from the fire, increase my lawful sustenance, and keep away the transgressive Jinn and humans

from me. (Ibn Abi Dunya, see Lataiful Ma'arif, pg.494)

Fasting

"Fasting on the day of Arafah will wipe out the sins of the past and future year." (Sahih Muslim)

Staying away from Sin Rasulullah 🎉 said, "He who protects his ears, eyes and tongue on this day (Day of Arafah) will be forgiven." (Musnad Ahmad, Majma'uz Zawaid, vol.3 pg.251)

The Devil's Humiliation The day of Arafah is the day when the devil is most humiliated (due to Allah's extensive forgiveness). (Muwatta Imam Malik, Musnad Ahmad and Ibn Majah, Hadith: 3013)

"Apart from the day of the Battle of Badr there is no day on which the devil is seen to be more humiliated, more rejected, more depressed and more infuriated, than on the day of Arafah." (Mishkat)

Article adapted from www.al-miftah.com

HADITH

VERIFICATION SERIES 03

KNOWLEDGE OF zrat Ali



In this series we bring you a selection of topics from hadithanswers.com

Knowledge of Ali 🙈

Question: Is this Hadith authentic: Salman Al-Farisi radhiallahu anhu reported: "Ali is the most knowledgeable from my Ummah after myself." (Daylami)

Answer: This narration appears in Musnadul Firdaws of Imam Daylami. The chain is located in Kitabul Managib of Khuwarazmi. The chain consists of an extremely weak narrator who has also been declared a liar by Imam Ibn Ma'in.

(Musnadul Firdaws, Hadith: 1491, Kitabul Manaqib of Khuwarazmi, pg. 82. Refer: Mizanul I'tidal, vol. 2 pg. 300, number: 3756 and vol. 4 pg. 195, number: 7449)

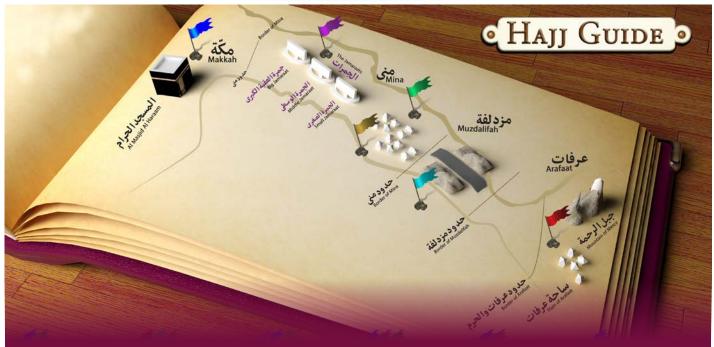
The narration is not suitable to quote.

The following narration should be quoted instead: Rasulullah

🗱 said: "The most capable in judgement is Ali."

These words are found in some copies of Sunan Ibn Majah, hadith: 154, Musnad Abi Ya'la, Hadith: 5736, Al-Mu'jamus Saghir, vol.1 pg.201 and Mustadrak Hakim, vol.3 pg.535. Also see Kashful Khafa, vol.1 pg.118.

'Allamah Haythami 🏙 has declared the Hadith of Tabarani as sound (hasan). (Majma'uz Zawaid, vol.9 pg.155)



Day One | 8 Zul Hijjah:

- Ihram
- Head to Mina in the
- morning Read Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib, Esha in Mina

Day Two | 9 Zul Hijjah:

- Read Fajr in Mina
- Head to Arafat in the
- morning

 Read Zuhr and Asr in Arafah
- Wuqoof in Arafah
- Leave for Muzdalifa after sunset
- Read Maghrib and Esha in Muzdalifa

Day Three | 10 Zul Hijjah:

- Read Fajr in Muzdalifa
- Head to Mina in the morning

 • Stone the big Jamarah
- Slaughter animal
- Shave/trim hair
- Head to Makkah Mukarramah
- Tawaaf Ziyarah/Ifadha and Sa'ee between Safa and Marwa
- Spend night in Mina

Day Four I 11 Zul Hijjah:

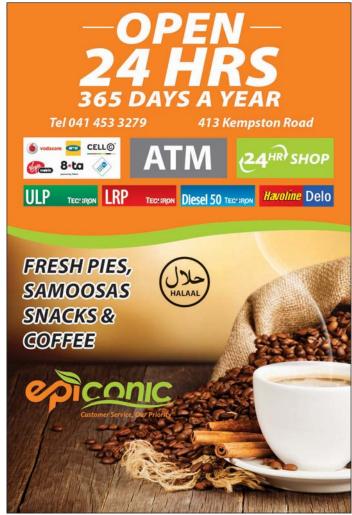
- Stone the three Jamarahs after Zawaal
- Spend the day and night in Mina

Day Five | 12 Zul Hijjah:

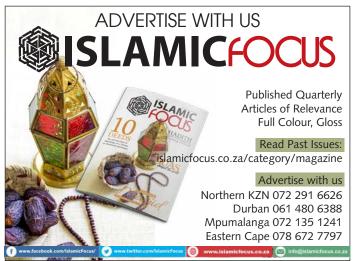
- Stone the three Jamarahs after Zawaal
- Spend the day in Mina
- Head to Makkah Mukarramah before sunset
- One can stay an additional night and day in Mina and stone the 3 Jamarahs
- Farewell Tawaaf















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